

Asbestos in the Home

Where asbestos hazards may be found in the home:

- ?? Some roofing and siding shingles are made of asbestos cement.
- ?? Houses built between 1930 and 1950 may have asbestos as insulation.
- ?? Asbestos may be present in textured paint and in patching compounds used on wall and ceiling joints. Their use was banned in 1977. However in 1991 that ban was overturned.
- ?? Artificial ashes and embers sold for use in gas-fired fireplaces may contain asbestos.
- ?? Older products such as stove-top pads may have some asbestos compounds.
- ?? Walls and floors around wood-burning stoves may be protected with asbestos paper, millboard, or cement sheets.
- ?? Asbestos is found in some vinyl floor tiles and the backing on vinyl sheet flooring and adhesives.
- ?? Hot water and steam pipes in older houses may be coated with an asbestos material or covered with an asbestos blanket or tape.
- ?? Oil and coal furnaces and door gaskets may have asbestos insulation.

Asbestos Ban and Phase Out

On July 12, 1989, EPA issued a final rule banning most asbestos-containing products. In 1991, this regulation was overturned by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. As a result of the Court's decision, the following specific asbestos-containing products remain banned: flooring felt, rollboard, and corrugated, commercial, or specialty paper. In addition, the regulation continues to ban the use of asbestos in products that have not historically contained asbestos, otherwise referred to as "new uses" of asbestos. It is my fear that most people think Asbestos products are no longer used in the U.S. It is although its use has been reduced.

Asbestos Do's and Don'ts for the homeowner:

Do keep activities to a minimum in any areas having damaged material that may contain asbestos.

Do take every precaution to avoid damaging asbestos material.

Do have removal and major repair done by people trained and qualified in handling asbestos. It is highly recommended that sampling and minor repair also be done by asbestos professionals.

Don't dust, sweep, or vacuum debris that may contain asbestos.

Don't saw, sand, scrape, or drill holes in asbestos materials.

Don't use abrasive pads or brushes on power strippers to strip wax from asbestos flooring. Never use a power stripper on a dry floor.

Don't sand or try to level asbestos flooring or its backing. When asbestos flooring needs replacing, install new floor covering over it, if possible.

Don't track material that could contain asbestos through the house. If you cannot avoid walking through the area, have it cleaned with a wet mop. If the material is from a damaged area, or if a large area must be cleaned, call an asbestos professional.

Please contact the Johnny O. Perea Foundation for more information by visiting our web page @ <http://home.comcast.net/~cperea8208/Asbestos.html> or Email @ johnnyopereafoundation@comcast.net.

I will need your support to provide services such as testing materials and removal in a safe manner.

Thank you for your support!

Charles R. Perea

President & Founder